UNCW Cameron School of Business

Fall 2000 Newsletter

in forward motion

UNCW Partners with French University for N.C.'s First Dual Degree

Utilizing interactive video conferencing, officials at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the Centre d'Etudes Superieures Europeenes Management Mediterranee (CESEM) at Marseille, France, jointly announced the formation of an innovative dual degree program on June 15. The dual degree agreement will enable students in America and France to earn both a bachelor of science degree in business administration from UNCW and the diploma of the CESEM Mediterranee.

"This is the first dual degree program in North Carolina and one of the few in the country," said Dr. Howard Rockness, former dean of the Cameron School of Business at UNC Wilmington. "It is also the first in France with an American business school."

Participants will study two years at UNCW and two years in Marseille. The program begins in September 2000. Several years in the making, the initiative is an outgrowth of a transatlantic alliance formed in 1998 by UNCW's Cameron School of Business with four European Union business schools and two other United States business schools to develop and implement a model international business education program. The first agreement is anticipated to pave the way for similar arrangements with the other participating schools in the transatlantic alliance.

"This program represents a significant new phase for our international programs and is a reflection of the globalization of business," said UNCW Provost John Cavanaugh, who was in Marseille for the formal document signing on June 16.

"This is the first time we've had a situation where students can earn a degree here and at an international institution. These American students will be fluent in French and studying in an international environment. Imagine the job offers they will have."

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Introducing Our New Dean

Dean Clark

During its May 15 meeting, the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina approved the appointment of Lawrence S. Clark as the new dean of the UNCW Cameron School of Business, effective July 1. Dean Clark was also appointed as a professor in the Department of Accountancy and Business Law.

Education and Early Teaching Experience

A native of Illinois, Dean Clark received a bachelor's degree in economics/business administration from Knox College in Galesburg in 1971 and a J.D. degree from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago in 1974. After a brief stint on the faculty at Northern Illinois University, he spent three years, from 1975 to 1978, as a captain on the faculty of the Judge Advocate General's School at the University of Virginia and also taught at the university's McIntyre School of Commerce.

In 1978, he returned to the faculty at Northern Illinois University. While teaching there, he also found time to attend DePaul University School of Law in Chicago. In 1980, he received his L.L.M. degree in taxation.

Fourteen Years of Leadership at Louisiana State

Dean Clark began his 14-year association with Louisiana State University-Shreveport in 1981 as a professor of business law. In 1985, he became dean of its College of Business Administration.

At Louisiana State University-Shreveport, he led the effort to secure AACSB (AACSB is the premier international accreditation agency for business schools) accreditation for the business school, which occurred in 1992. In addition, he led the expansion of the school's internship program to over 200 companies, built its international business program, including a partnership with (Turku) Finland School of Economics and Business, and expanded relationships with the business community. He was instrumental in forming several outreach partnership programs at the school to expand relationships with the business community and became involved in leadership positions with key business groups. He was a member of the board of directors of the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce for a number of years and its vice president in 1987 and 1992. He also held a number of leadership positions in the Northeast Louisiana United Way and for two years hosted local business TV programs.

Six Years as Dean at Sonoma State

In 1994, Dean Clark began a six-year career as dean of the School of Business and Economics at Sonoma State University in California. He had been active with the AACSB for a number of years prior to moving to California, and he continued to be involved with the AACSB while in California. Over the years, Dean Clark has advised, or evaluated, many collegiate business schools seeking AACSB accreditation and has just completed a three-year term on the AACSB candidacy committee. Additionally, he has served on their by-laws committee and regional presidents committee.

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Our principal mission and vision is to prepare students to become business leaders in a changing world and to be nationally recognized for responsiveness to the needs of our students and the business community. Learn more about us by visiting our web site, http://www.csb.uncwil.edu

New Dean *from page 1*

His years of AACSB experience were invaluable to Sonoma State as its business school began the process of accreditation by AACSB. In 1999, the business school at Sonoma was accepted as an AACSB candidate school to begin the process of seeking formal accreditation.

At Sonoma State, Dean Clark continued his focus on the business community. He led the establishment of the first American wine business program with an undergraduate concentration, coupled with professional development programs and related faculty research grants. These wine business education programs have attracted over a million dollars of funding from the California wine industry.

The Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, Sonoma United Way and North Bay Economic Forum were among the key business-related organizations in the region that benefited from Dean Clark's active involvement. In addition to the business community, he focused attention on another key business school stakeholder, its alumni. He pioneered the business school's alumni newsletter and established a separate business alumni fund-raising campaign.

On the Personal Side

While establishing an enviable track record as a leader in business education, Dean Clark has maintained an active family and personal life.

His wife Georgia and stepdaughters Susan and Michelle have enjoyed many sailing outings. Additionally, good things come in bunches. Besides moving to Wilmington this year, the Clarks are marrying off Susan and Michelle. The year 2000 will be busy and no doubt financially demanding, but we hope it will be full of many happy family memories.

In addition to his interest in sailing, Dean Clark has developed and maintains an avid interest in automotive history and Thomas Jefferson. We are sure his move to Wilmington will allow more than ample opportunity for him to continue his sailing interest. We also suspect that he will arrange weekend trips to Charlottesville, Virginia, for further research on Thomas Jefferson.

Dean Clark, we all welcome you to Wilmington and the UNCW Cameron School of Business, and we wish you success in the years ahead in your new job as our dean.

Local Economic Growth Slows

Analysis conducted by CSB professors Claude Farrell and William W. Hall, Jr., shows that growth in the area economy began to slow dramatically in late 1999. The forecast for the next 12 months indicates that local economic growth will be the slowest since the early 1990s.

The economists attribute the slower growth to a number of factors. Employment, retail sales and construction have slowed dramatically, and unemployment has stabilized. The increased tropical storm activity affecting the area in recent years has also adversely affected growth prospects.

The 11-county NCSE region in southeast North Carolina is forecast to grow around 2 percent over the next year, down from the almost 3 percent growth rate of 1999. The three coastal counties of Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender will experience economic growth of slightly more that 3 percent, down from growth of almost 7 percent over 1999. The economy of the three northern counties of the NCSE region (Cumberland, Hoke, and Sampson) will grow 1.5 percent, down from 3 percent growth over 1999. The economy of the five western counties of the region (Bladen, Columbus, Richmond, Robeson and Scotland will not grow appreciably over the next year. This will mark the second consecutive year of no growth in these western counties.

For additional comment and/or analysis, please contact Dr. Farrell at 910.962.3511 (farrell@uncwil.edu) or Dr. Hall at 910.962.3419 (hall@uncwil.edu).

Raleigh Exec Joins Cameron Executive Advisory Board

Michael T. Constantino, a partner in the international accounting and consulting firm of Ernst & Young, was elected to the Cameron Executive Advisory Board at its May meeting. Mr. Constantino is in the firm's Raleigh office and handles client relationships for a number of its major clients in Raleigh, Fayetteville and Wilmington.

Michael holds bachelor's degrees in accounting and business management from North Carolina State and is a CPA in North Carolina. Because of the expansion of our student, alumni and employer base to all major metropolitan areas in the state, the board has increasingly focused on the addition of qualified executives from these metropolitan areas.

New Foundations for Success Program

The Coastal Entrepreneurial Council (CEC), in cooperation with the Cameron School of Business, announces a new series of programs for the fall entitled "Foundations for Success." These programs will target practical ways in which executives and business owners can be more effective in their day-to-day operations. For September, the nationally prominent authority on executive health, Mr. Joe Dillon, will speak on improving effectiveness through better nutrition. For October, the CEC is bringing in the well-known authority on strategic planning for small business, Mr. Rick Houcek. The CEC mini-conference, planned for November, will focus on ways to fund business growth and expansion. For details, call the CEC office at 910.962.3901.

Dual Degree, *from page 1*

In addition to CESEM, the European members of the alliance are the Hochschule Bremen in Bremen, Germany; the University of Westminister's Harrow Business School in London, England; and the Universidad de Valencia in Valencia, Spain. Along with UNCW, the U.S. members are East Tennessee State University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

The alliance is funded in part by a $206,000, three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Funding for the European Union schools is from a Euro 100,000 grant (approximately $80,000) from the European Union, supplemented by local country education grants. The program has been supported by the university's Office of International Programs.

The program will work like this: Students from both countries, who have completed their secondary education, will have the opportunity to pursue a business administration program with majors in human resources, finance, or marketing. Students will do an intensive full-time, 40-hour-a-week, four-to six-month internship in their home country before going abroad and one in the host country before returning home.

The first cohort of students will start their studies in September 2000 at their home institution and begin study abroad in fall semester 2002. The initial objective is for five students per year to start in each school. There should be 10 students from each school in the other school at any time after the second cohort goes abroad in 2003. The objectives may be increased over the years by mutual agreement.

In addition to the dual degree program described above, UNCW students may choose a CESEM summer program that awards 12 credits for 8 weeks' work in French language, European business and culture, including an internship in a local company. These students will not earn the CESEM diploma but will help balance the exchange, as it is expected that there may be more French students prepared to study in the U.S. than vice versa. Students will take classes and exams in the language of the school they are attending (UNCW classes will be taught in English, CESEM classes in French except for the summer program). Thus, language preparation is crucial to student success.

As is customary in most university international exchange programs, students who participate in this program will pay tuition and fees to their home institutions and take care of living expenses on the local economy. Because of strong language abilities required for this program, UNCW will seek to identify students at the high school level who might be interested and recruit them into the program. For more information about the program, contact Dr. Sheila Adams, associate professor of management at the Cameron School of Business and chair of the school's international committee, at 910.962.3745 or adams@uncwil.edu.

An Interview With Dean Clark

Dean Clark arrived in Wilmington in July from Sonoma, California, to take up his duties as the new dean of the Cameron School of Business. He still has a number of people to meet and additional information to obtain about the university, the school, its programs and its many opportunities. He does have some initial thoughts, however, about certain key issues that he has agreed to share with us at this time.

What attracted you to Wilmington and the UNCW Cameron School of Business?

Sonoma is much like Wilmington in that it is a very attractive place to live. Both places have much to offer, such as the climate, water, golf, growing business communities and a strong cultural life. Overall, I expect that I didn't gain or lose much in changing communities and expect that I will be very happy here.

On the other hand, UNCW and the Cameron School of Business are a step up from Sonoma State University for a business educator like myself. UNCW has a broad-based education program with fields of study that are nationally ranked. It has about 25 percent more students than my former university and is scheduled to grow further over the next several years. The Cameron School of Business has been growing in undergraduate and graduate programs over the last several years and has experienced a large increase in enrollment. In contrast to the School of Business and Economics at Sonoma State, Cameron's student body is also 25 percent larger, and the school has been accredited by AACSB for a number of years, has a great teaching faculty, has established graduate programs and has a unique international business education program. These things make Cameron an exciting place to be, with plenty of opportunity for me to make meaningful contributions to its further growth and development.

While at Sonoma State, you were instrumental in starting a business alumni newsletter and a separate business alumni fund-raising program. Your focus on the alumni indicates how important they are to a university and a business school. What plans to you have to work with the Cameron alumni in the years ahead?

Cameron's alumni are still relatively young, as the school itself has only been in existence for a little over 20 years. However, they are increasingly moving into leadership positions in the business world. I expect that we will call on them more and more, in the years ahead, to participate with our faculty and students to ensure that the various programs we offer continue to be fully relevant and that our new graduates have ever-increasing opportunities for good job placement. In addition, we hope that our alumni will increase their financial support for the university and the school as they continue to succeed in business.

As the Cameron School of Business continues to enhance its reputation as a leading school of business in the state and region, the value of a bachelor's or master's degree from the school will also increase in the business world. This will be good news for both the school and our alumni—a win-win situation.

I was delighted to hear that our newly formed business school chapter of the UNCW alumni association was singled out for special recognition by the alumni association. This is indicative of the vitality and growth of our business alumni and speaks well for the future. One of my key jobs here will be to work closely with the business alumni organization to expand its programs and support for the school in the years ahead.

At Louisiana State and Sonoma State, you were very active with a number of important business-related organizations, such as the chamber of commerce, United Way and regional development. In fact, when announcing your appointment, Dr. John Cavanaugh, the UNCW provost and vice chancellor, said you "bring to UNCW a long record of success and innovation in working with business and industry." Do you plan to be actively involved with business and industry?

Involvement with key business organizations provides a unique opportunity to understand the issues being addressed by the business community and what our school could or should be doing to help. Additionally, it can and should lead to expanded opportunities, including more student internships, quality jobs for graduates and financial support for the school and university.

I plan to identify similar organizations in Wilmington and eastern North Carolina where my background and experience could add value and keep me in close touch with the issues faced by the business community. At Sonoma State, we helped develop a unique educational program for the wine industry and at the same time received considerable financial support from the California wine industry for this program. Hopefully, similar opportunities exist in North Carolina industries.

My recent experience in sustainable growth that requires communities to balance economic, environmental and social equality concerns to maintain progress should be beneficial in working the university and other fast-growing communities in eastern North Carolina like Wilmington. One of the top items on my agenda is to get actively involved with the business community.

continued on back

Interview *continued from other side*

From a number of national and regional studies, our students view the Cameron faculty as a superior teaching faculty that gives attention to students and their needs. Certainly, the faculty is a valuable asset and its teaching focus wholly consistent with the mission of the university. What do you expect to do in the future to grow this teaching faculty?

The UNCW Cameron School is indeed blessed with a superior teaching faculty. Anything we do in the future should reinforce and build on this strength.

Because of the recent rapid growth of our student body, we are adding, and will continue to add, both experienced faculty and new Ph.D.s. We will also make more funds available for faculty research. This expanded faculty will allow us to reduce existing teaching loads to more normal levels. In turn, reduced teaching loads will provide the faculty with the additional time needed for their academic research, more student interaction and increased involvement with the business community. We hope that the expansion of the faculty and research funding will further improve our effectiveness and that our students will continue to value us highly as a teaching faculty. As we move forward in this area, I want to work in a collaborative fashion with department chairs, faculty and staff on mutual goals and objectives.

For a number of years, you have been actively involved with AACSB, the premier international accreditation agency for business schools. Do you plan to continue your involvement with them in the years ahead?

Accreditation by the AACSB is a fundamental requirement for any business school that aspires to be in the top tier of collegiate business schools. The Cameron School of Business has been AACSB accredited for a number of years, and we all intend that it continue in the years ahead. My ongoing involvement with the AACSB should ensure that our programs and practices continue to be at the high levels required by AACSB.

Perhaps the hardest question we can ask you at this time is, "What vision do you have for the Cameron School in the future?"

You're right. The question is a hard one at this time. As you would expect, I have to do more homework, obtain more information and consult our various stakeholders before I can answer that question.

Fortunately for me, the faculty has just completed the customary bi-annual review of the school's mission and vision and has drafted recommended programs for the future. I will be spending considerable time, in the near future, considering this review and draft report and consulting with the faculty and other key stakeholders about our mission, vision and appropriate programs for the future. This process will be extremely helpful in clarifying my thinking on this important subject.

Hopefully, when we are finished, we will have a compelling vision, such as "the strongest regional business school in North Carolina." To reach our vision, we will need to have the necessary programs and capabilities to get us there. Support from our stakeholders will be critical in achieving our vision. We will need to effectively communicate the vision and its attainment, as perception is often as important as the reality.

Do you have any further thoughts for us at this time?

For a school that is only a little more than 20 years old, its administration, faculty and staff have done an amazing job in building a strong foundation. Because of what has gone before me, the school is well positioned to make a major move to the next level of prominence in business education. By working together, we will make this important move in the years ahead.

National Honor Society Inductees

Congratulations to the following Cameron students who were inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma and Beta Alpha national honor societies in April. Beta Gamma Sigma is the national honor society for business schools that are fully accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business. Beta Alpha Psi is a similar honor society for accountants.

Beta Gamma Sigma

Master's Students

Albeon Griffin Anderson • James E. Beiersdorff Steven Lee Bertz • Holly Tackett Blankenship • N. Eason Bryan III • Colin Edward Callaghan • Wesley Allen Cribb Robert H. Davis • Agustin R. Dean • Sara Ward Drake Nancy Raye Edwards • Harold Edward Flinn • Brian Scott Garris • Timothy David Gill • Kristina Marie Hemmelgarn • Katherine Newton Hinson • Joshua C. Houghton • James Davenport Hundley, Jr. • Kenneth Brian Karp • Summer Rae Lyles • Lisa Adell Marks Wesley Boyd Petrea • Kristy S. Pottol • Leslee Marie Powell • Theresa Spring Schlagentweith • Tanya Rebecca Skipper • Harold Jeffery Suggs • Andrew Warren Takacs

Seniors

Daniel R. Alford • Cedrick Ladarrell Barrett • Amanda Lee Boyle • Heather Church Broderick • Jason Lee Brown • Chasity Lynn Chace • George Edgar Clark, IV Jason Mark Conatser • Richard Alan Cook • Bonnie Lois Cummings • Pamella J. Davis • Elizabeth Elaine Edwards • Leslie Jane Elliott • Deanna Best Evans Pepper D. Exposito • Louis Augustus Fennell, Jr. Deborah Hagen Gibson • Matthew M. Gildersleeve Jennifer Kimberly Gill • Carissa Sue Hawn • Shawn C. Horton • Amy Rebecca Jarrell • Jacqueline Margaret Leach • Esther Lee • Kimberly Butler Martin • John Phillip McPherson II • Sandra Davis Mullis • Holly Ann Murphy • L. Brandon Odham • Christa Vera Orecchio Brian Keith Shackelford • Brian Christopher Shevland Mark Lee Sibla • Shannon Marie Spencer • Matthew J. Stephens • Kevin Jerome Swider • Frank Joseph Tamberelli, II • Jessica Leigh Tatum • Vicky Marie Waddell • Melanie Jean Whipple • Robin Cody White Catherine Alicia Wosczyna • David James Zmiewsky

Juniors

Sherri H. Batson • Bonnie Jean Bowman • Nina Brown Carol Lea Caldwell • Julia Raven Dudley • Sarah Emily Graham • Marcus Darnell Green • Anne W. Gutermuth Ashley Beth Hogan • Patricia Elaine Hogan • Bradley Joseph Hummel • Christa Gail Johnson • Kelly Kristin Johnson • Linda Jean Johnson • Jessie Brett Liles Jennifer Ann Maiorany • Jamie Ann Muller • Joey M. Pruitt, Jr. • Gina Marie Santore • Alison Marie Smith Jason R. Smith • Joseph James Stanlonis • Jeannie Beatrice Tanguay • Curtis Allen White, II • Kathleen Mary Willison • Melissa Jane Witschen • Nicole Lynn Wolkoff • William Scott Wood • Amanda Johanna Wynn

Beta Alpha Psi

Julia Dudley • Jessica Tatum • Tyiesha Agnew • David Banks • Blair Barker • David Boggs • Sarah Bullard Bill Cadwell • Amy Campbell • Chasity Chase • Wei Chen • Hong Hong Chen • Richard Cook • Lorrie Cooper • James A. Cox • Brenda Currie • Melanie DeGroft • Dana Denton • Sara W. Drake • Jean Eckert Diana Gillikin • Cori Hansen • Pamela Harker • Amy Helms • Kristina Hemmelgarn • Katherine Hinson Sandi Hooper • Wesley Johnson • Christa Johnson Emma Kelly • Danielle Kragnes • Valerie Kucera Joanna Lakas • Esther Lee • Summer R. Lyles Sienna Loy • Gerry Marano • Kimberly Martin • Ann Mebane • Bruce Miller • Heather Mueller • Michelle Nagel • Tracy Reeves • Katherine Roberts • Carrine Robinson • Brian T. Routh • Amy Runnion • Theresa Schlagentweith • Madonna Stafford • Lauren Stoner Jacob Teagle • Joy Thorton • Susan Tison • Bryan Trogdon • Karen Vassar • Renee Vrska • Catherine Wosczna • Lisa Wurtzbacher

Student Scholarships Awarded for 2000-2001

The recipients of the Cameron School of Business scholarships for the 2000-2001 school year have been announced. These scholarships allow the school to attract and retain the very best students regardless of financial limitations.

We are pleased to announce four new scholarships and one new planned gift. The Frank Dunne, Jr., Memorial Scholarship is fully endowed, and the first recipient has been awarded. Friends honoring Frank Dunne, Jr., have made this scholarship possible. The Gerald Edward Green Memorial Scholarship is also fully endowed and was established by Mrs. Dolores Green in honor of her late husband. The Norman R. Kaylor Scholarship has reached full endowment level and was generously supported by donors honoring our former dean. Alumnus Chris Hegele and the CSB Alumni Chapter have been significant forces in making this scholarship possible. These endowed scholarships require a minimum of $25,000 and are a lasting way to impact the school. Stephen and Kathleen Kelbley have added another scholarship commitment to the school by establishing a second annual scholarship. The Daniel W. Desmond Scholarship is a new planned gift that will benefit the school through a partial IRA gift award. These new scholarships support the mission of the school by assisting our students. Thanks to the generosity of these donors, opportunities are available.

This year's applications spoke to our students' financial assistance needs, and we are grateful to the individuals, organizations and companies that provided funding for the scholarships. Past, present and future support is critical to our success, and we appreciate the investment in our greatest asset—our students.

Congratulations to the students (listed in box) who will be awarded scholarships for the 2000 – 2001 school year.

Graduate student scholarships are also available. The J. Elwood Walker, Dixon Odom and RSM McGladrey (2) scholarships are normally awarded as part of the annual admissions process in August, and we are additionally grateful to the individuals and companies that provide the funds for these scholarships.

If you would like information about establishing a scholarship, please contact the dean's office at 910.962.3777.

Student	*Provider*
Rebecca Heine	Annie Ross King Memorial
Mauro Di Filippo	BB&T
Kelly K. Johnson	BB&T
Jamie A. Muller	BB&T
Tyiesha M. Agnew	Charles R. Long
Laurel A. Pettys	Frank Dunne, Jr., Memorial
Jessica L. Tatum	Gerald Edward Green Memorial
Jason Rivenbank	Hughes Brothers, Inc. *(1st year recipient)*
Cynthia F. Thomas	Hughes Brothers, Inc. *(2nd year renewal)*
Jennifer L. Stone	Hughes Brothers, Inc. *(3rd year renewal*
Anna S. Bowen	Hughes Brothers, Inc. *(4th year renewal)*
Bonnie Gagnon	Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina (IIANC)
William S. Wood	Information Systems and Operations Management
Julia R. Dudley	Institute of Management Accountants
Tyiesha M. Agnew	June and Turner Johnson
Richard A. Cook	J. W. Jackson
Diana L. Gilliken	J. W. Jackson
Esther Lee	J. W. Jackson
Thomas A. Hooker	Lee M. Sherman
Amanda J. Wynn	Lower Cape Fear Human Resources Association
Kimberly B. Edmondson	Mary McDuffie Walker
Alison M. Smith	Mary R. King Memorial
C. Marshall Butler	Norman R. Kaylor
John B. Dalton IV	Peoples Savings Bank
Amanda J. Wynn	Purchasing Management Association of the Carolinas–Virginia
Thomas B. Routh	Roger P. Hill
Carol L. Caldwell	Sales and Marketing Executives International Association
Patricia E. Hogan	Sales and Marketing Executives International Association
Joseph J. Stanlonis	Sales and Marketing Executives International Association
Rachel J. Queen	Sally R. Wilkins
Brad J. Hummel	Stephen and Kathleen Kelbley
Melissa J. Witschen	Stephen and Kathleen Kelbley
Larry C. Baldwin	Thomas J. Burke
Amy L. Stout	Wilmington Shipping Company

Dr. Rockness, Others Honored at the Fourth Annual Greater Wilmington Business Awards Gala

Over 300 business leaders from our area gathered at Wagner Hall on May 18 to celebrate business success in our region. The Cameron School of Business, along with the Coastal Entrepreneurial Council (CEC), again helped to organize the event.

Now in its fourth year, many regard the awards gala as the premier business event of the year. The CEC, the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business and Technology Development Center, the Cameron School of Business and the Wilmington Small Business Coalition jointly hosted the awards gala.

This year's event sponsor was the Wilmington Star-News, with VisionAire and Technical Coating International, Inc. serving as corporate sponsors. An additional 22 table sponsors, plus 2 reception sponsors, helped to underwrite the evening. The Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, the CEC, and the Wilmington Small Business Coalition presented awards to five firms and individuals.

The Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce presented the Corporate Citizen of the Year Award to Louie E. Woodbury, acknowledging his 60 years of civic leadership and business service to Wilmington and to the insurance industry.

The CEC presented three awards. The CEC's Established Entrepreneurial Firm of the Year Award went to PharmaResearch Corporation and its dynamic president, Phyllis Lee, in recognition of their outstanding growth and potential for continued expansion. PharmaResearch employs more than 250 people managing clinical trials in 12 countries under the umbrella of a corporate operation here in Wilmington.

The CEC's Emerging Entrepreneurial Firm Award recognized the leadership of Rick Sears and The Wilmington Group for creating a nationally recognized fast-growing recruiting and executive search firm. Operating out of a Wilmington base, The Wilmington Group serves major corporations from coast to coast.

Former Dean Howard Rockness receives the 2000 Service to Entrepreneurs Award from CEC President Brian McMerty.

The CEC Service to Entrepreneurs Award is presented to an individual who has provided significant assistance to entrepreneurs and emerging ventures or served as a role model or source of inspiration for entrepreneurs. This year's unanimous choice was Dr. Howard Rockness, former dean of the Cameron School for the past seven years, in recognition of his fine efforts in fostering entrepreneurship throughout the region. Additionally, he has been instrumental in building a strong relationship between the Cameron School and the regional business community. Many entrepreneurs in this community have benefited from his counsel and personal guidance as they sought to create or expand a business enterprise.

The highlight of the evening is the presentation of the Small Business of the Year Award by the Wilmington Small Business Coalition. The winner is chosen from among the seven small business award winners previously honored by the Coalition earlier in the month. This year's award went to Technical Coating International, Inc. (TCI) and its president, Burt Moody. In a short eight years, TCI has grown to become one of the world's prominent suppliers of specialty papers for commercial and industrial applications.

If you missed this year's event, plan to be there next year. The awards gala is held annually in late May and is a grand evening celebrating the excellence of our business community. It is a marvelous example of UNCW and the Cameron School working collaboratively with the business community to advance regional growth and economic development through business and commerce.

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